The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) A live bacterium preparation or food for prevention and treatment of gingivitis, periodontitis and periodontal disease, which comprises live cells of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974),as an active ingredient.

3. (Previously Presented) A live bacterium preparation or food for prevention or treatment of dental caries, which comprises live cells of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974), as an active ingredient.

4. (Previously Presented) A live bacterium preparation or food for prevention of halitosis and elimination of halitosis, which comprises live cells of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974), as an active ingredient.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A live cell obtained by pure culture of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974).

8. (Previously Presented) A dry live cell obtained by pure culture of a lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974).

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a live lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974), and an oral care drug.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 10, wherein the oral care drug is selected from the group consisting of sugar alcohols and oligosaccharides.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 11, wherein the oral care drug is erythritol.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) An isolated strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974).

17. **(New)** The live bacterium preparation or food according to claim 3, wherein the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain has an ability that, when the strain is cultured with *Streptococcus mutans* at 37°C for 24 hours, it can reduce amount of insoluble glucan produced by *Streptococcus mutans* to a level of 20% or lower compared with amount of insoluble glucan produced by *Streptococcus mutans* cultured alone.

18. **(New)** The live bacterium preparation or food according to claim 2, wherein the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TU 2711 strain has an ability that, when oral cavity of a mouse is infected with a periodontopathic bacterium, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, by administration of the bacterium to the oral cavity once a day for consecutive three days in an amount of 1×10^9 CFU each, and then the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain is administered to the oral cavity of the mouse once a day for consecutive three days in an amount of 1×10^9 CFU each, the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TU 2711 strain can reduce cell count of the

periodontopathic bacterium with significance of $P < 0.001$ according to the Wilcoxon test.

19. **(New)** The live bacterium preparation or food according to claim 3, wherein the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TU 2711 strain has an ability that, when oral cavity of a mouse is infected with a cariogenic bacterium, *Streptococcus mutans*, by administration of the bacterium to the oral cavity once a day for consecutive three days in an amount of 1×10^9 CFU each, and then the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain is administered to the oral cavity of the mouse once a day for consecutive three days in an amount of 1×10^9 CFU each, the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TU 2711 strain can reduce cell count of the cariogenic bacterium with significance of $P < 0.01$ according to the Wilcoxon test.

20. **(New)** The live bacterium preparation or food for prevention and treatment of gingivitis, periodontis and periodontal disease according to claim 2, which has the following characteristics:

when said preparation is administered to humans in an amount corresponding to 3500 mg of lyophilized cell powder of the bacterium per day over 2 months,

said preparation does not significantly change total bacterial cell number in the oral cavity 4 weeks after the start of the administration,

said preparation does not significantly change total *Lactobacillus* bacteria cell number in the oral cavity 4 weeks after the start of the administration,

said preparation does not significantly change saliva pH and maintains said pH at a normal level 4 weeks after the start of the administration,

said preparation reduces cell number of periodontopathic bacteria with significance of $P < 0.0001$ according to the Wilcoxon test 4 weeks after the start of the administration, and

said preparation reduces halitosis measured with a halimeter with a significance of $P < 0.004$ 4 weeks after the start of the administration, and a significance of $P < 0.001$ 8 weeks after the start of the administration.

21. **(New)** The live bacterium preparation or food for prevention and treatment of dental cares according to claim 3, which has the following characteristics:

when said preparation is administered to humans in an amount corresponding to 3500 mg of lyophilized cell powder of the bacterium per day over 2 months,

said preparation does not significantly change total bacterial cell number in the oral cavity 4 weeks after the start of the administration,

said preparation does not significantly change total *Lactobacillus* bacteria cell number in the oral cavity 4 weeks after the start of the administration,

said preparation does not significantly change saliva pH and maintains pH at normal level 4 weeks after the start of the administration, and

said preparation reduces insoluble glucan amount in saliva with a significance of $P < 0.05$ 4 weeks after the start of the administration, and a significance of $P < 0.001$ 8 weeks after the start of the administration.

22. **(New)** The live bacterium preparation or food for prevention and elimination of halitosis according to claim 4, which has the following characteristics:

when said preparation is administered to humans in an amount corresponding to 3500 mg of lyophilized cell powder of the bacterium per day over 2 months,

said preparation does not significantly change total bacterial cell number in the oral cavity 4 weeks after the start of the administration,

said preparation does not significantly change total *Lactobacillus* bacteria cell number in the oral cavity 4 weeks after the start of the administration,

said preparation does not significantly change saliva pH and maintains pH at a normal level 4 weeks after the start of the administration,

said preparation reduces cell number of periodontopathic bacteria with significance of $P < 0.0001$ according to the Wilcoxon test 4 weeks after the start of the administration, and

said preparation reduces halitosis measured with a halimeter with a significance of $P < 0.005$ 4 weeks after the start of the administration, and a significance of $P < 0.001$ 8 weeks after the start of the administration.

23. **(New)** The composition according to claim 10, which shows higher effect for suppression of *Streptococcus mutans* proliferation and insoluble glucan production by *Streptococcus mutans* compared with sum of the effect obtainable by use of the lactic acid bacterium alone and the effect obtainable by use of the oral drug alone.

24. **(New)** The composition according to claim 23, wherein the oral care drug is selected from the group consisting of sugar alcohols and oligosaccharides.

25. **(New)** The composition according to claim 24, wherein the oral care drug is erythritol.

26. (**New**) A composition comprising the isolated strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974) according to claim 16.

27. (**New**) The isolated strain of *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain (FERM BP-7974) according to claim 16, wherein the *Lactobacillus salivarius* TI 2711 strain has an ability that when the strain is cultured with *Streptococcus mutans* at 37°C for 24 hours, the strain can reduce the amount of insoluble glucan produced by *Streptococcus mutans* as compared with amount of insoluble glucan produced by *Streptococcus mutans* cultured alone.